To: Mr. Steven Jones

From: Tara Jones-Lawrence

RE: Change of current vending machines

According to the state of Georgia School Report Card, Northeast High School currently educates students who are 90% Black and Hispanic and over 80% in poverty. Furthermore, in 2013 the graduation rate was 54%. These percentages have proved astonishing as children being held behind decreases their chance of being able to succeed. In today’s society, a major emphasis has been placed on healthy lifestyles and nutrition, particularly amongst children. Understanding this information and knowing how impoverished children often lack appropriate nutrition, it would be neglectful as educators to overlook the effects of nutrition on cognitive and academic achievement. Studies show that child health and nutrition are strongly associated with educational achievement. The human brain, while composed of 75% water, needs a large number of nutrients, including vitamins, and amino acids to produce important chemical bonds and reactions. And, as we consistently observe at Northeast, poorly nourished children are often tired, apathetic, and unable to concentrate. Thus, making well nourished more ready to learn. To assist in allowing our students to be a ready as possible to learn, I propose replacing the currently junk filled vending machines with ones that offer healthier choices.

Last week, the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition was proud to join the partners of the Presidential Youth Fitness Program (PYFP) to recognize Georgia as the first state to fully implement the program. The Presidential Youth Fitness Program, which was launched in September 2012, encourages schools, districts and states to meet criteria that will provide students with the skills and knowledge needed to be active and healthy for a lifetime. Enter the Fresh Healthy Vending Company. The Fresh Healthy Vending has an instant grant program which will allow installation of their machine for FREE and funds to cover the cost of the healty food. Furthermore, the instant grants program offers a substantial 15% commission on net vending machine food sales as well as a generous location signing bonus of up to $500 per machine. Northeast High School could and should be in the forefront of all schools in Middle Georgia focused on decreasing the child overweight and obesity rates. Moreover, Northeast will receive the much needed positive recognition within the community as well as uplift the goals of First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” initiative.

Not only does making a healthy eating change focus on overall wellness in cognitive, academic and physical achievements, the Fresh Healthy Vending machines will cause educational discourse that is connected to state standards. For example, Biology standards indicate that students must identify the function of the four major macromolecules (i.e., carbohydrates, proteins, lipids, nucleic acids). The Health Education standards also indicate that students will demonstrate the ability to access valid information and products and services to enhance health. , students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks, and students will acquire basic personal health concepts that help maintain healthy behaviors and prevent disease.

Lastly, the cost for the Fresh Healthy Vending machine will be ZERO if the grant is attained. I have no problem getting in contact with stakeholders, local churches, and business owners within the Northeast community to get funds to raise the machine as soon as possible if, for any reason, the grant is not achieved. As educators who are serious about producing active and scholarly students ready to give back to society, it is our duty to create the BEST possible student. Thank you for your time and consideration with this matter and at your convenience, please contact me so we may discuss the proposal for trading in the current vending machines with the Fresh Healthy Vending machines.